

★ news release

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1963-64 FRAMEWORKS FOR HUNTING RAILS, GALLINULES, WOODCOCK, AND SNIPE
ANNOUNCED BY DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

In view of the lack of hunter interest, no season on rails is prescribed in the Pacific Flyway. Later, when seasons on waterfowl and coots are prescribed, consideration will be given to continuing a provision allowing gallinules to be taken with coots in that Flyway.

Woodcock

The Fish and Wildlife Service's 1963 singing counts of breeding woodcock show a slight increase and rates of reproduction have remained constant for two years. For this reason, a moderate increase in length of season and bag limits is prescribed for 1963-64.

Within the outside dates of September 1, 1963, through January 15, 1964, each State in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways may select a season of 50 consecutive full days with daily bag and possession limits of 5 and 10. Daily shooting hours are from sunrise until sunset (Standard time) in all States except New York. In New York, the shooting hours are from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m., based on official prevailing time.

Wilson's Snipe

A moderate increase in the length of season for snipe is prescribed for 1963-64, since the population data on this species indicate a slight increase in each of the past two years.

Within the outside dates of September 1, 1963, through January 15, 1964, each State may select a season of 45 consecutive full days, with a daily bag and possession limit of 8. Daily shooting hours are from sunrise until sunset (Standard time) in all States in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways, and from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset (Standard time) in the State of Alaska and all States in the Pacific Flyway.

Migratory Game Bird Seasons in Alaska

Alaska may select seasons on waterfowl, coots, and Wilson's snipe within the outside dates of September 1, 1963, through January 15, 1964. Daily shooting hours for all species are from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset (Standard time).

A season of 45 consecutive full days will be permitted for Wilson's snipe.

In all of Alaska except the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, an open season of 105 consecutive full days for brant, coots, ducks (except canvasback and redhead), and geese will be allowed. The Aleutian and Pribilof Islands may have an open season of any length within the outside dates of October 15, 1963, through January 15, 1964, for brant, coots, ducks (except canvasback and redhead), and geese.

The daily bag and possession limits on ducks in Alaska are 5 and 10 respectively, and in addition to these limits, a daily bag limit of 15 and a possession limit of 30, singly or in the aggregate, is allowed for scoter, eider, old-squaw, harlequin, and American and red-breasted mergansers.

For geese, the daily bag limit is 6 and the possession limit 12, and not more than 3 daily, singly or in the aggregate, and 6 in possession, singly or in the aggregate, may be Canada geese or subspecies of Canada geese and white-fronted geese.

A daily bag and possession limit of 3 will be in effect for brant. For coots, the daily bag and possession limit is 15, and the daily bag and possession limit for snipe is 8.

An open season of 30 consecutive full days for taking little brown cranes in Alaska is prescribed for the period from September 1, 1963, through September 30, 1963, with a daily bag limit of 2 and a possession limit of 4. The daily shooting hours for little brown cranes in Alaska is from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset (Standard time).

Sea Ducks in the Northeast

A special open season for taking scoter, eider, and old-squaw ducks is prescribed during the period October 1, 1963, through January 15, 1964, in all coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams seaward from the first upstream bridge in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and in certain coastal waters of New York State. The New York State waters include Long Island Sound and Block Island Sound and the waters of Gardiners Bay lying east of a line from the Long Beach Bay lighthouse to the most easterly point of Ram Head on Shelter Island to the Cedar Point light, but not including coastal waters on the south side of Long Island.

Daily shooting hours on these ducks are from sunrise until sunset (Standard time), and the daily bag limit is 7 and the possession limit is 14, singly or in the aggregate. In all other areas of these States and in all other States in the Atlantic Flyway, such ducks may be taken only during the open seasons for other ducks. During the open season in all States in the Atlantic Flyway, in addition to the bag limits on other ducks, a daily bag limit of 7 and a possession limit of 14 scoter, eider, and old-squaw ducks, singly or in the aggregate, will be permitted.

Each year the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior makes extensive surveys of North American migratory game bird populations. Using proven statistical methods, such surveys determine population trends which, along with suggestions from State conservation agencies, are used to establish the annual hunting regulations.

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